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# **Investigation of data relating to blind and partially sighted people in the Quarterly Labour Force Survey**

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**March 2011**

## **1 Summary**

This report provides the results of an investigation into the data which can be obtained from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey in relation to blind and visually sighted people. A breakdown of the type of information which can be accessed from the survey is presented, and this is supplemented by detailed tables relating to Economic Activity.

## **2 Introduction**

This report relates to an investigation of the data contained within the quarterly Labour Force Survey, and the type of information which can be derived from it that may be of use to RNIB.

### ***2.1 Identifying people with a visual impairment in the Labour Force Survey (LFS)***

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a large scale survey carried out on behalf of the UK government. For example, data relating to that collected from the Labour Force Survey for the quarter January-March 2010 was from 114,493 respondents. Within that quarterly sample there were 802 people who answered 'yes' to the question 'do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last more than a year?' *and* also identified seeing difficulties (while wearing spectacles or contact lenses) as their main health problem. 2,216 people answered 'yes' to the question 'do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect

will last more than a year?', *and* identified seeing difficulties as a health problem (although many identified more than one health problem).

On closer inspection of the data, it was observed that a number of the people included in the survey were retired. It was therefore decided to only include people in our analysis who are of working age (16-65 for men and 16-60 for women). This meant our total number of those who identified seeing difficulties as their main health problem was reduced to 314, and the number who identified themselves as having seeing difficulties was reduced to 831 of the 67,955 respondents of working age.

The procedure for categorising respondents disabilities used by Meager and Carta (2008) in their report 'Labour market experiences of people with seeing difficulties' was adopted in this analysis. To summarise, their approach was:

1. Respondents were asked the question 'do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last more than a year?'
2. Those who responded 'yes' were asked what type of health problems they have. They were able to choose from a list of 17 categories, one of which was 'difficulty in seeing (while wearing spectacles or contact lenses)'. Respondents were able to choose as many from this list as appropriate. This was the question used in ascertaining whether respondents had seeing difficulties.
3. Respondents who had answered yes for question 1 were also asked if they could identify their main health problem, of which 'difficulty in seeing (while wearing spectacles or contact lenses)' was an option. This is the question used in ascertaining those respondents whose main health problem was seeing difficulties.
4. Respondents would then be asked if these health problem(s) or disability(ies) (when taken singly or together) substantially limit their ability to carry out normal day-to day activities. Normal day-to-day activities are defined as 'those which are carried out by most people on a daily basis'. If the respondent answered yes to this question, and/or they had already identified that they have one or more specific health problem, then they are recorded as having a **current disability** as defined by the **Disability Discrimination Act**.
5. People whose health problem(s) or disability(ies) are expected to last more than a year are also asked the following questions: 'Does this health problem affect the kind of work that you might do?' '...or the AMOUNT of paid work that you might do?'

If the respondent fulfils either (or both) of these criteria they are defined as having a '**work-limiting disability**'.

Those people who meet the criteria for either current DDA or work-limiting definitions of disability are defined as having a '**current long-term disability**'.

These categories of disability are pre-coded in the dataset, under the variable 'DISCURR' with the options 1 = DDA disabled and work-limiting disabled, 2 = DDA disabled, 3 = Work-limiting disabled only, 4 = Not disabled. Categories 1-3 were combined by Meager and Carta (2008) to create the category 'long-term disabled'.

There are 706 variables within the survey, many of which would be of interest to RNIB in their work (through a univariate and multivariate analysis). These include variables on:

- economic activity
- demographics
- household structure
- mobility of workforce
- government training schemes
- whether working in private or public sector
- employment status (e.g. full or part time work, temporary or permanent work)
- length of time in current employment
- redundancy
- transport as a barrier to employment
- method for travelling to work
- sickness from work
- number of hours worked
- employment pattern
- second job
- whether seeking or not seeing work
- under-employment
- details of unemployment (duration, methods of seeking work, job search)
- benefit entitlement
- education and training
- current study
- income

As an example of the type of information which can be derived from this dataset, details are given of respondent economic activity. There are three different variables included in the dataset – each of varying level of detail. Figures are given for those who identified sight difficulties as their main health problem, and then for those of the whole data set (to serve as a comparison). Within the dataset there is a weighting variable which converts the data so that it is representative of the whole population (therefore the numbers are scaled up to give estimates of the number of people in the labour force that the response would be applicable for). Caution should be taken when interpreting these figures. With this dataset, only 314 people identified sight difficulties as their main health problem.

## ***2.2 Aggregating twelve quarters of the LFS (from October 2007 to September 2010)***

These smaller samples are why Meager and Carta decided to combine 12 quarters of data (according to the Office of National Statistics own recommendations). Due to the consistency between the quarterly datasets, it is possible to regularly re-run the analysis upon the release of each quarter's data. It should be noted that the Labour Force Survey operates using a panel design. Within each survey there are five approximately equal waves of respondents, with a wave being dropped at the end of their fifth quarter of participation. This means that for each survey, there is an 80% overlap with the previous quarter. Therefore, when aggregating the data, you are including the same household on multiple occasions. To take account of this, the Office of National Statistics recommends averaging the data over four quarters (i.e. a given year). On the basis of this they suggest the following estimated figures (following weighting) for sufficient statistical confidence in order to use estimates for publication:

	Minimum Publication Level	95 per cent confidence interval
One quarter	10,000	+/-4,000
Four quarters	6,000	+/-2,640
Eight quarters	4,000	+/-1,600
12 Quarters	3,000	+/-1,200
16 Quarters	2,000	+/-800

## 2.3 Report structure and interpreting the findings

The findings are presented mainly in tables. The first six tables are presents data for specific quarters. Aggregated data from twelve quarters (October 2007 – September 2010) is used in Table 6 onwards.

It is important to consider the ‘confidence’ we have in the estimates presented in the tables. Some of the data in the tables are presented in percentages, and so to aid interpretation, those figures which are *not* sufficiently high to be used as confident estimates in publication (following the ONS recommendations described above) are marked with an asterisk. The sample sizes for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty for a given quarter is approximately 300-400. In spite of the undoubted strengths of the LFS probability-based sample, this is a relatively small sub-sample and has a limited associated confidence. As noted above, statisticians from the Office of National Statistics recommend aggregating data when looking at minority groups.

Therefore, our confidence in the estimates is increased substantially through aggregating the data, but even with 12 quarters aggregated together, it should be remembered that some of our estimates are below the recommend threshold of 3,000. If making public statistics from the labour force survey, it may be necessary to collapse categories further – for example, percentage employed versus percentage not in employment.

It is important to note that although the panel design does have a longitudinal element, with the same household being surveyed five times, the tables and graphs which show successive quarters are based upon a series of snap-shot surveys, with a new wave of 20% of households entering the sample each quarter. It should also be noted that employment rates typically follow seasonal variations.

The process of aggregating quarters is used to increase confidence in the figures derived from the LFS. Of course, while confidence is increased we become less specific about the time period of the estimates, i.e. the aggregated estimates for 12 quarters gives us estimates for three period.

For the purpose of this report, it was decided to calculate the following estimates by looking only at those who had identified sight difficulties as their **main** health problem (following the model offered by Meager and Carta, 2008). Whichever interview question is used to define the visually impaired group, the analysis is based upon participants’ *self-described*

disabilities (in this case, those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty). If we compare this to employment estimates generated through other surveys which sampled people who were registered as sight impaired (partially sighted) or severely sight impaired (blind) (e.g. Network 1000) we would highlight the following likely differences:

- a) There are higher estimated numbers of this group compared to the registered working age population (Based upon above definitions: Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty estimate of 110,000; All people with a seeing difficulty estimate of 180,000; Registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired estimate of 68,000).
- b) The sample drawn from the Labour Force Survey is likely to *include* people who have less severe visual impairment than those who are registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired.
- c) The sample drawn from the Labour Force Survey is more likely to *exclude* people who have significant additional complex needs compared with those who are registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired (in particular those who would describe another disability as their 'primary' disability).

## **2.4 List of Tables:**

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Table 2. Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, Labour Force Survey

Table 3. Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, Labour Force Survey

Table 4. Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, Labour Force Survey (for reference, this can be compared to page 33 of Meager and Carta (2008)

Table 5. Economic activity of those of a working age July – September 2010, Labour Force Survey (for reference, this can be compared to page 33 of Meager and Carta (2008)

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Table 8. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey

Table 9. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – Aged 16-18

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Table 19. Duration of unemployment for those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey

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Table 21. Economic Activity of Long-term disabled with a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey

Table 22. Economic Activity of all people with a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey

Table 23. Economic Activity of whole population (by education) –  
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(October-December 2007 until July-September 2010) for those who  
describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty and all working age  
population (Labour Force Survey)

### 3 Findings – for individual quarters

**Table 1 Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, Labour Force Survey**

Activity	Frequency – Sight difficulties main health problem (N)	Percent – Sight difficulties main health problem (%)	Frequency whole data set (N)	Percent whole data set (%)
In employment	107,129	59.6%	27,314,015	71.8%
ILO unemployed	14,912	8.3%	2,458,855	6.5%
Inactive	57,747	32.1%	8,262,635	21.7%
Total (Weighted)	179,788	100.0%	38,035,505	100.0%

**Table 2. Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, Labour Force Survey**

Activity	Frequency – Sight difficulties main health problem (N)	Percent – Sight difficulties main health problem (%)	Frequency whole data set (N)	Percent whole data set (%)
Employee	89,719	49.9%	23,565,805	62.0%
Self Employed	17,410	9.7%	3,564,155	9.4%
Government employment and training programmes	0*	0.0%	127,971	0.3%
Unpaid family member	0*	0.0%	56,084	0.1%
ILO Unemployed	14,912	8.3%	2,458,855	6.5%
Economically inactive – looking for work	1,444*	0.8%	272,962	0.7%
Economically inactive – wanting work	15,696	8.7%	2,029,662	5.3%
Economically inactive	40,607	22.6%	5,960,011	15.7%

– neither wanting nor seeking work				
Total (Weighted)	179,788	100.0%	38,035,505	100.0%

\* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 10,000)

**Table 3. Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, Labour Force Survey**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Frequency – Sight difficulties main health problem (N)</b>	<b>Percent – Sight difficulties main health problem (%)</b>	<b>Frequency whole data set (N)</b>	<b>Percent whole data set (%)</b>
Employee	89,719	49.9%	23,565,805	62.0%
Self-employed	17,410	9.7%	3,564,155	9.4%
Government employment and training programme	0*	0.0%	127,971	0.3%
Unpaid family worker	0*	0.0%	56,084	0.1%
ILO unemployed	14,912	8.3%	2,458,855	6.5%
<b>Economically Inactive – looking for work</b>				
Student	0*	0.0%	130,052	0.3%
Looking after family, home	0*	0.0%	45,555	0.1%
Temporarily sick or injured	0*	0.0%	13,819	0.0%
Long-term sick or disabled	0*	0.0%	10,216	0.0%
Other reason	0*	0.0%	54,402	0.1%
No reason given	1,444*	0.0%	18,918	0.0%
<b>Economically inactive – wanting work:</b>				
Waiting results of job application	0*	0.0%	15,218	0.0%
Student	550*	0.3%	436,093	1.1%
Looking after family, home	3,509*	2.0%	551,895	1.5%
Temporarily sick or	1,296*	0.7%	96,249	0.3%

injured				
Long term sick or disabled	8,836*	4.9%	638,447	1.7%
Believes no jobs available	432*	0.2%	50,191	0.1%
Not yet started looking	1,073*	0.6%	61,096	0.2%
Does not need or want employment	0*	0.0%	26,252	0.1%
Retired from paid work	0*	0.0%	30,828	0.1%
Other reason	0*	0.0%	122,609	0.3%
No reason given	0*	0.0%	784*	0.0%
<b>Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work:</b>				
Waiting results of job application	0*	0.0%	7,307*	0.0%
Student	4,647*	2.6%	1,894,218	5.0%
Looking after family, home	11,187	6.2%	1,630,433	4.3%
Temporarily sick or injured	0*	0.0%	62,976	0.2%
Long term sick or disabled	17,430	9.7%	1,390,587	3.7%
Believes no jobs available	0*	0.0%	15,408	0.0%
Not yet started looking	0*	0.0%	20,437	0.1%
Does not need or want employment	0*	0.0%	155,967	0.4%
Retired from paid work	6,242*	3.5%	562,587	1.5%
Other reason	551*	0.3%	139,643	0.4%
No reason given	550*	0.3%	80,448	0.2%
Total (Weighted)	179,788	100.0%	38,035,505	100.0%

\* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 10,000)

**Table 4. Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, Labour Force Survey (for reference, this can be compared to page 33 of Meager and Carta (2008))**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	40.3%	65.0%	49.9%	43.1%	66.6%	62.0%
Self employed	8.9%*	11.0%*	9.7%	7.2%	9.9%	9.4%
ILO unemployed	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Government employment and training programmes	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Unpaid family member	8.6%*	7.9%*	8.3%	6.4%	6.5%	6.5%
Economically inactive – looking for work	1.3%*	0.0%*	0.8%*	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Economically inactive – wanting work	12.0%	3.7%*	8.7%	12.7%	3.5%	5.3%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	29.0%	12.5%*	22.6%	29.2%	12.3%	15.7%
Total (N) (Weighted)	109,670	70,118	179,788	7,417,698	30,438,019	38,035,505

\* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 10,000)

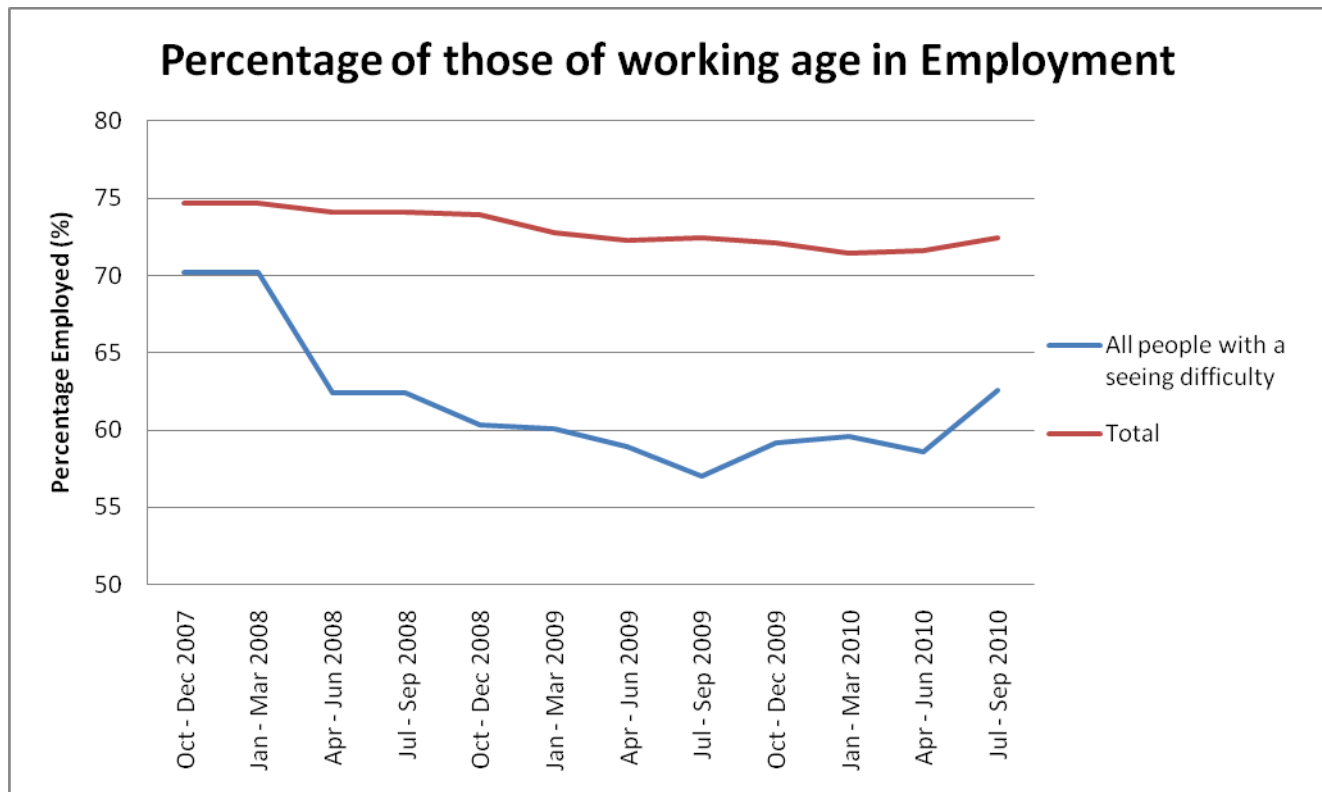
**Table 5. Economic activity of those of a working age July – September 2010, Labour Force Survey (for reference, this can be compared to page 33 of Meager and Carta (2008))**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	42.4%	73.0%	55.6%	43.2%	67.9%	62.9%
Self employed	4.7%*	11.5%*	7.6%	7.7%	10.0%	9.5%
ILO unemployed	0.7%*	0.8%*	0.7%*	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Government employment and training programmes	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Unpaid family member	10.9%	5.2%*	8.5%	6.4%	6.6%	6.5%
Economically inactive – looking for work	0.5%*	1.9%*	1.1%*	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
Economically inactive – wanting work	14.7%	0.0%*	8.4%	12.5%	3.5%	5.3%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	26.1%	7.6%*	18.2%	28.8%	10.9%	14.5%
Total (N) (Weighted)	106,685	80,123	186,808	7588374	30349101	38124283

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 10,000)

## 4 Aggregation of twelve quarters

**Figure 1. Comparison of Employment Rates over the last 12 quarters (October-December 2007 until July-September 2010) for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty and all working age population (Labour Force Survey)**



This chart presents estimates over the past 12 quarters and shows the percentage of those surveyed through the Labour Force Survey who reported that they were in employment. The figures are re-presented as a table below. It compares all of those in each quarter who were identified as having a seeing difficulty (sight difficulties were identified as their main health problem, combining those who were classified as long-term disabled and those who were not disabled) with the percentage employed across the whole population.



**Table 6. Comparison of Employment Rates over the last 12 quarters (October-December 2007 until July-September 2010) for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty and all working age population (Labour Force Survey)**

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Percent Employed:  Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty</b>	<b>Percent Employed:  Not disabled with seeing difficulty</b>	<b>Percent Employed:  All people with a seeing difficulty</b>	<b>Percent Employed:  Other long-term disabled</b>	<b>Percent Employed:  Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty</b>	<b>Percent Employed:  Total</b>
<b>Oct - Dec 2007</b>	57.6	85.4	<b>70.2</b>	50.4	80.4	<b>74.7</b>
<b>Jan - Mar 2008</b>	58.6	85.4	<b>70.2</b>	50.4	80.1	<b>74.7</b>
<b>Apr - Jun 2008</b>	52.5	77.9	<b>62.4</b>	50.3	79.5	<b>74.1</b>
<b>Jul - Sep 2008</b>	52.2	77.9	<b>62.4</b>	50.3	79.5	<b>74.1</b>
<b>Oct - Dec 2008</b>	47.1	80.5	<b>60.3</b>	50.8	79.1	<b>73.9</b>
<b>Jan - Mar 2009</b>	47.3	79.5	<b>60.1</b>	49.6	78.2	<b>72.8</b>
<b>Apr - Jun 2009</b>	45.2	81.2	<b>58.9</b>	49.5	77.4	<b>72.3</b>
<b>Jul - Sep 2009</b>	45.1	75.0	<b>57.0</b>	49.4	77.7	<b>72.4</b>
<b>Oct - Dec 2009</b>	46.6	77.1	<b>59.2</b>	49.5	77.3	<b>72.1</b>
<b>Jan - Mar 2010</b>	49.2	76.0	<b>59.6</b>	50.3	76.5	<b>71.4</b>
<b>Apr - Jun 2010</b>	47.0	73.9	<b>58.6</b>	50.0	77.1	<b>71.6</b>
<b>Jul - Sep 2010</b>	47.1	84.5	<b>62.6</b>	50.9	77.9	<b>72.4</b>

## 5 Findings – by aggregated for twelve quarters

**Table 7. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey (for reference, this can be compared to page 33 of Meager and Carta (2008))**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	41.6%	69.7%	52.8%	42.9%	68.6%	63.7%
Self employed	7.2%	9.7%	8.2%	7.2%	9.8%	9.3%
ILO unemployed	7.3%	5.3%	6.5%	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%
Government employment and training programmes	0.5%*	0.2%*	0.3%*	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Unpaid family member	0.04%*	0.06%*	0.04%*	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Economically inactive – looking for work	0.9%*	1.0%*	0.9%*	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Economically inactive – wanting work	13.4%	3.5%*	9.4%	12.6%	3.2%	5.0%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	29.2%	10.6%	21.7%	30.3%	11.8%	15.3%
Total (N) (Weighted)	114,221	76,551	190,772	7,072,165	30,612,869	37,875,806

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 8. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	41.6%	69.7%	52.8%	42.9%	68.6%	63.7%
Self-employed	7.2%	9.7%	8.2%	7.2%	9.8%	9.3%
Government employment and training programme	0.5%*	0.2%*	0.3%*	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Unpaid family worker	0.04%*	0.1%*	0.04%*	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
ILO unemployed	7.3%	5.3%	6.5%	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%
<b>Economically Inactive – looking for work</b>						
Student	0.2%*	1.0%*	0.5%*	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Looking after family, home	0.1%*	0.05%*	0.1%*	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Temporarily sick or injured	0.1%*	0.0%*	0.1%*	0.1%	0.02%	0.03%
Long-term sick or disabled	0.1%*	0.0%*	0.05%*	0.1%	0.0%*	0.02%
Other reason	0.1%*	0.0%*	0.1%*	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
No reason given	0.2%*	0.0%*	0.1%*	0.1%	0.04%	0.05%
<b>Economically inactive – wanting work:</b>						
Waiting results of job application	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.04%*	0.04%	0.04%
Student	0.5%*	0.8%*	0.6%*	0.5%	1.1%	1.0%
Looking after family, home	1.3%*	1.3%*	1.3%*	1.7%	1.3%	1.4%
Temporarily sick or injured	0.4%*	0.3%*	0.3%*	0.8%	0.1%	0.2%

Long term sick or disabled	10.1%	0.1%*	6.1%	8.6%	0.05%	1.7%
Believes no jobs available	0.2%*	0.1%*	0.1%*	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Not yet started looking	0.3%*	0.4%*	0.4%*	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Does not need or want employment	0.0%*	0.1%*	0.04%*	0.1%	0.05%	0.05%
Retired from paid work	0.1%*	0.2%*	0.2%*	0.1%	0.05%	0.1%
Other reason	0.4%*	0.2%*	0.3%*	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%
No reason given	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*
<b>Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work:</b>						
Waiting results of job application	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.01%*	0.01%	0.01%
Student	2.4%*	2.6%*	2.5%	1.9%	5.04%	4.4%
Looking after family, home	4.9%	3.8%*	4.5%	4.8%	4.2%	4.3%
Temporarily sick or injured	0.2%*	0.1%*	0.2%*	0.8%	0.1%	0.2%
Long term sick or disabled	17.1%	0.0%*	10.2%	18.9%	0.1%	3.6%
Believes no jobs available	0.1%*	0.05%*	0.1%*	0.05%	0.02%	0.03%
Not yet started looking	0.1%*	0.3%*	0.2%*	0.07%	0.07%	0.1%
Does not need or want employment	0.3%*	0.5%*	0.4%*	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Retired from paid work	3.4%	2.9%*	3.2%	2.7%	1.2%	1.5%
Other reason	0.5%*	0.1%*	0.4%*	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
No reason given	0.1%*	0.3%*	0.2%*	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Total (Weighted)	114,225	76,559	190,784	7,074,163	30,612,879	37,877,826

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 9. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – Aged 16-18**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	30.0%*	28.2%*	29.2%*	24.4%	34.4%	33.5%
Self employed	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.8%*	0.5%	0.6%
ILO unemployed	1.6%*	3.0%*	2.2%*	2.4%	1.6%	1.7%
Government employment and training programmes	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.2%*	0.2%	0.2%
Unpaid family member	12.7%*	25.3%*	17.9%*	15.6%	12.8%	13.1%
Economically inactive – looking for work	2.0%*	8.4%*	4.7%*	2.9%	3.3%	3.2%
Economically inactive – wanting work	10.9%*	10.2%*	10.6%*	13.6%	10.5%	10.8%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	42.8%*	24.9%*	35.4%*	40.2%	36.6%	36.9%
Total (N) (Weighted)	4,394	3,106	7,500	209,780	2,134,489	2,351,769

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 10. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 19-25**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	42.0%	62.6%	52.6%	43.7%	63.0%	61.0%
Self employed	1.2%*	3.0%*	2.1%*	2.1%	3.3%	3.2%
ILO unemployed	1.5%*	0.6%*	1.0%*	1.2%	0.5%	0.5%
Government employment and training programmes	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.2%*	0.1%	0.1%
Unpaid family member	11.3%*	7.9%*	9.5%*	13.0%	9.6%	10.0%
Economically inactive – looking for work	3.5%*	5.1%*	4.3%*	1.7%	1.2%	1.2%
Economically inactive – wanting work	13.4%*	4.8%*	9.0%*	12.0%	4.3%	5.1%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	27.1%*	16.0%*	21.4%	26.1%	18.0%	18.8%
Total (N) (Weighted)	8,698	9,263	17,961	574,435	5,188,502	5,780,898

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 11. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 26-39**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	45.5%	76.0%	58.9%	48.1%	74.0%	70.6%
Self employed	6.7%*	8.1%*	7.3%	6.0%	9.5%	9.0%
ILO unemployed	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Government employment and training programmes	0.0%*	0.2%*	0.1%*	0.2%*	0.1%	0.1%
Unpaid family member	10.6%*	3.2%*	7.4%	6.9%	4.7%	5.0%
Economically inactive – looking for work	1.1%*	0.2%*	0.7%*	1.0%	0.5%	0.6%
Economically inactive – wanting work	15.1%	4.8%*	10.6%	13.0%	2.9%	4.2%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	20.9%	7.4%*	15.0%	24.5%	8.2%	10.3%
Total (N) (Weighted)	24,406	19,044	43,450	1,473,329	9,934,065	11,450,844

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 12. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 40-54**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	46.9%	74.8%	58.2%	46.8%	75.4%	68.9%
Self employed	8.7%	14.4%	11.0%	8.4%	13.4%	12.3%
ILO unemployed	0.1%*	0.0%*	0.08%*	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Government employment and training programmes	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Unpaid family member	6.6%	3.8%*	5.5%	4.9%	3.4%	3.8%
Economically inactive – looking for work	0.7%*	0.0%*	0.4%*	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%
Economically inactive – wanting work	14.7%	1.2%*	9.2%	12.9%	1.8%	4.4%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	22.2%	5.8%*	15.6%*	26.1%	5.4%	10.1%
Total (N) (Weighted)	43,137	29,525	72,662	2,884,083	9,962,332	12,919,077

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)



**Table 13. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 55-64**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employee	33.3%	64.7%	43.3%	34.9%	62.9%	52.6%
Self employed	8.1%*	8.7%*	8.3%	8.5%	15.6%	13.0%
ILO unemployed	0.8%*	0.0%*	0.5%*	0.1%*	0.06%	0.08%
Government employment and training programmes	0.1%*	0.0%*	0.1%*	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Unpaid family member	4.2%*	4.9%*	4.4%*	2.9%	3.1%	3.0%
Economically inactive – looking for work	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Economically inactive – wanting work	10.6%	4.1%*	8.5%	12.0%	2.2%	5.8%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	42.9%	17.5%*	34.9%	41.1%	15.7%	25.0%
Total (N) (Weighted)	33,585	15,613	49,198	1,930,538	3,393,479	5,373,215

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 14. Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – Aged 16-18**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employed	30.0%*	28.2%*	29.2%*	25.2%	35.0%	34.1%
Unemployed	14.3%*	28.3%*	20.1%*	18.3%	14.9%	15.2%
Student	42.9%*	38.2%*	40.9%	41.0%	45.2%	44.8%
Looking after family and home	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	1.1%%	0.8%	0.9%
Long term sick or disabled	8.8%*	0.0%*	5.2%*	9.5%	0.02%*	0.9%
Retired	1.2%*	1.4%*	1.3%*	0.05%*	0.0%*	0.01%*
Something else	2.9%*	4.0%*	3.3%*	4.8%	4.1%	4.1%
Total (N) (Weighted)	4,394	3,106	7,500	209,778	2,134,489	2,351,767

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 15. Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 19-25**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employed	43.2%	65.6%	54.8%	45.9%	66.4%	64.3%
Unemployed	12.8%*	8.5%*	10.6%*	14.4%	10.3%	10.7%
Student	14.6%*	14.4%*	14.4%*	10.2%	15.4%	14.9%
Looking after family and home	9.0%*	9.1%*	9.0%*	7.3%	5.4%	5.6%
Long term sick or disabled	14.3%*	0.0%*	6.9%*	17.1%	0.07%	1.8%
Retired	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.08%*	0.01%*	0.01%*
Something else	6.2%*	2.4%*	4.2%*	5.1%	2.5%	2.7%
Total (N) (Weighted)	8,699	9,262	17,961	574,436	5,188,503	5,780,900

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 16. Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 26-39**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employed	52.2%	84.1%	66.2%	54.1%	83.5%	79.6%
Unemployed	11.1%*	3.2%*	7.6%	7.4%	5.0%	5.3%
Student	0.8%*	4.2%*	2.3%*	1.3%	1.7%	1.6%
Looking after family and home	10.6%*	6.9%*	9.0%	10.9%	8.3%	8.6%
Long term sick or disabled	21.8%	0.0%*	12.3%	22.0%	0.08%	2.9%
Retired	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.0%*	0.07%*	0.01%*	0.02%*
Something else	3.4%*	1.6%*	2.6%*	4.3%	1.5%	1.9%
Total (N) (Weighted)	24,406	19,043	43,449	1,473,329	9,934,064	11,450,842

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 17. Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 40-54**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employed	55.6%	89.2%	69.2%	55.2%	88.8%	81.2%
Unemployed	6.9%*	3.8%*	5.7%	5.3%	3.6%	4.0%
Student	0.4%*	0.0%*	0.2%*	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Looking after family and home	6.3%*	4.7%*	5.6%	6.7%	4.9%	5.3%
Long term sick or disabled	28.3%	0.0%*	16.8%	28.6%	0.1%	6.6%
Retired	0.2%*	0.3%*	0.2%*	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%
Something else	2.3%*	2.0%*	2.2%*	3.5%	1.9%	2.2%
Total (N) (Weighted)	43,138	29,527	72,665	2,884,083	9,962,332	12,919,080

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 18. Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 55-64**

Activity	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Employed	41.4%	73.5%	51.6%	43.4%	78.5%	65.6%
Unemployed	5.4%*	5.6%*	5.5%*	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Student	0.3%*	0.2%*	0.3%*	0.1%*	0.1%	0.1%
Looking after family and home	3.6%*	2.6%*	3.2%*	4.0%	3.4%	3.6%
Long term sick or disabled	35.5%	0.3%*	24.4%	35.6%	0.2%	13.2%
Retired	11.5%	14.4%*	12.4%	9.5%	10.5%	10.1%
Something else	2.3%*	3.5%*	2.7%*	3.9%	3.8%	3.9%
Total (N) (Weighted)	33,585	15,613	49,198	1,930,538	3,393,481	5,373,217

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 19. Duration of unemployment for those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey**

Unemployment duration	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Less than 12 months	58.5%	67.6%*	61.5%	62.6%	76.5%	73.7%
12 months or more	41.5%	32.4%*	38.5%	37.4%	23.5%	26.3%
Total (Weighted)	8,378	4,023	12,401	404,600	1,679,942	2,096,943

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 20. Duration of ILO unemployment for those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey**

Unemployment duration	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	Total (%)
Less than 12 months	60.7%	69.3%*	63.5%	66.7%	78.1%	75.9%
12 months or more	39.3%	30.7%*	36.5%	33.3%	21.9%	24.1%
Total (Weighted)	8,074	3,923	11,997	379,733	1,646,005	2,037,735

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 21. Economic Activity of Long-term disabled with a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey**

	Degree or above (%)	A-level and below degree level (%)	GCSE level and other (%)	No qualification	Total weighted (%)
Employed	72.1%	62.8%	47.0%	17.1%	48.9%
Unemployed	4.9%*	8.3%*	9.7%	7.7%*	8.1%
Student	1.5%*	2.9%*	4.9%*	2.1%*	3.2%
Looking after family home	3.6%*	6.5%*	6.0%*	8.9%*	6.4%
Long term sick or disabled	10.3%*	15.3%	25.4%	57.6%	27.2%
Retired	4.9%*	2.5%*	3.2%*	3.1%*	3.3%
Something else	2.7%*	1.6%*	3.7%*	3.5%*	2.9%
N (weighted)	18,186	32,460	37,646	25,206	113,497

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)



**Table 22. Economic Activity of all people with a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey**

	Degree or above (%)	A-level and below degree level (%)	GCSE level and other (%)	No qualification	Total weighted (%)
Employed	78.7%	70.0%	59.3%	25.5%	61.1%
Unemployed	3.9%*	6.9%	9.0%	7.9%*	7.1%
Student	2.7%*	3.9%*	4.6%*	2.7%*	3.7%
Looking after family home	3.3%*	5.5%	6.1%	9.9%	5.9%
Long term sick or disabled	4.7%*	8.6%	15.6%	47.3%	16.3%
Retired	4.4%*	2.9%*	2.5%*	3.4%*	3.2%
Something else	2.3%*	2.2%*	3.0%*	3.3%*	2.6%
N (weighted)	39,533	57,715	61,361	30,701	189,310

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 23. Economic Activity of whole population (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey**

	Degree or above (%)	A-level and below degree level (%)	GCSE level and other (%)	No qualification	Total weighted (%)
Employed	86.5%	77.6%	69.9%	45.0%	76.1%
Unemployed	3.3%	4.8%	8.0%	8.8%	6.0%
Student	2.4%	7.2%	6.1%	6.5%	5.7%
Looking after family home	3.0%	3.4%	7.3%	13.5%	5.8%
Long term sick or disabled	1.2%	3.3%	5.0%	19.9%	5.3%
Retired	1.7%	1.7%	1.1%	2.2%	1.6%
Something else	1.9%	2.0%	2.7%	4.0%	2.4%
N (weighted)	8,049,734	12,004,413	13,172,980	4,289,108	37,516,236

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

## **6 References**

Meager and Carta (2008)

Office of National Statistics recommendations regarding aggregation.